



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of New York*

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### NEWS RELEASE

May 5, 2010

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that **JASON HASTINGS**, age 30, of Sherrill, New York, was charged by Complaint today in U.S. District Court with purchasing at retail more than 9 grams of ephedrine base, as specified by the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (CMEA).

The CMEA became effective on April 8, 2006. The CMEA regulates, among other things, retail over-the-counter sales of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products which are common ingredients found in cough, cold and allergy products. Retail provisions of the CMEA include daily sales limits and 30 day purchase limits, placement of product out of direct customer access, sales logbooks, customer ID verification, employee training and self-certification of regulated sellers. Congress enacted CMEA and the sale and purchase limitations expressly to curtail the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine since ephedrine based products are needed for the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine. The sales and purchase restrictions were determined based on what was deemed to be reasonable non-prescription quantities that would be used for lawful purposes. Pseudoephedrine and ephedrine are the principal precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine or amphetamine.

In order to purchase products containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine an individual must show identification and sign a log book at pharmacies or other retail businesses. The Drug Enforcement Administration along with state and local law enforcement are responsible for monitoring these log books in order to identify if any one person is purchasing more than 9 grams within 30 days. By way of example, assuming individual pills each contain 30 milligrams of ephedrine, the 9 gram monthly limit allows for the purchase of up to 371 pills.

The Complaint alleges that during the month of January 2010, **HASTINGS** purchased a total of 13.76 grams of pseudoephedrine base from multiple stores in Madison and Oneida Counties.

**HASTINGS** faces at least 15 days and up to two years imprisonment, at least a \$2,000 fine, and up to one year of supervised release following any period of incarceration if convicted.<sup>1</sup>

This prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Oneida City Police Department.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney John M. Katko, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0916.

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<sup>1</sup> The allegations contained in the Complaint are mere accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law either by way of a guilty plea or verdict of guilty.